THE CANNABIS CONNECTION

Your link to Missouri's Division of Cannabis Regulation (DCR)

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES
Division of Cannabis Regulation

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Introducing . . .

Tanner Stephenson

Administrative Manager
Office of Operational Support

Tanner Stephenson eagerly applied for the DCR administrative manager of the Office of Operational Support, which he was offered and accepted in March 2025. Tanner's responsibilities are to ensure DCR's internal operations remain continuous and successful.

Tanner was born and raised in Jefferson City, Mo. and graduated from Jefferson City High School in 2009. He later received his Bachelor of Science in business administration with minors in economics and management from Columbia College.

Tanner is a unique individual often found in deep thought. He strives to be authentically strategic in the practice of business and has an innate desire to build internal and external excellence by improving systems, policies, internal performance and external relationships.

Tanner doesn't shy away from challenges. Instead, he enjoys being in the middle of them. As a self-proclaimed non-destructive disrupter, challenging environments give Tanner an opportunity to challenge status quo and work toward identifying effective, efficient and sustainable solutions that meet the needs of the State of Missouri, its citizens and its stakeholders. He enjoys analyzing various indexes to determine how the state compares to other states and identifying where he believes the State of Missouri can improve. For Tanner, there is no greater opportunity than contributing to improving the lives of his fellow Missourians. That is why Tanner has dedicated the last 12 working years to the state.

Tanner started working for the state soon after his 22nd birthday, accepting a position with the Department of Revenue (DOR). Tanner held several positions including processing technician, unit leader, supervisor and legislative analyst.

He left DOR in 2019 after accepting a position as a fiscal analyst for the Joint Committee on Legislative Research. He expressed he will forever love the buzz and boom of the Capitol building during legislative session but had always dreaded the slowness of the interim.

Those quiet and still months that came after legislative session was Tanner's motivation to transition to another position. In 2021, Tanner accepted a position as the Department of Mental Health's director of Self-Directed Supports.

Outside of work, Tanner can be found near a BBQ grill, on a golf course, camping or watching college football or basketball and raising his four-year-old son to be and forever remain curious, kind, loving and hardworking.

Failed Mandatory Testing Notification Forms

Author: Bruce Dooley
Compliance Inspection Supervisor
Bureau of Facility Compliance

When marijuana products fail mandatory testing, licensees have several options for moving forward, but the clock starts ticking as soon as they are notified of the failure. To help streamline this process and ensure compliance, DCR has added new forms to our website specifically for failed mandatory testing.

What You Need to Know

When a marijuana product fails mandatory testing, a licensee has 15 days to notify DCR of the chosen solution and three months from the test failure to complete the chosen action. The new forms make it easier to provide DCR with the required notification for each of the options:

- Reanalyze the test sample.
- Remediate using a process approved in 19 CSR 100-1.110(11).
- Request approval for an unapproved remediation method.
- Destroy the failed product.

The New Forms

DCR created four specific forms to match each of the options below. You can find these forms at Cannabis.Mo.Gov.

- Reanalysis Notification Form - use when reanalyzing the original test sample.
- Approved Remediation Method Notification Form - use when remediating the failed product through an approved processes in rule.
- Unapproved Remediation Method Request Form – use when requesting approval of alternative remediation methods.
- Product Destruction Notification Form – use when destroying the failed product.

Mandatory Testing Forms, continued

Important Reminders

Complete the entire form.

Incomplete forms may not be accepted, which could delay the process and put the licensee at risk of missing the required timelines.

One form per tag.

A separate form must be completed for each tag that failed mandatory testing.

Wait for approval before acting.

This is critical:

- For notifications (reanalysis, approved remediation, or destruction): Do not begin until DCR removes the product from administrative hold.
- For requests (unapproved remediation): Do not begin until DCR approves the request in writing AND removes the product from administrative hold.

Follow form-specific instructions.

Each form includes additional instructions and submission requirements.

Remember the deadlines!

Per 19 CSR 100-1.110(10)(B), a licensee has **15 days** from test failure to notify DCR of the intended action and **three months** from initial test failure to complete the reanalysis, remediation, or destruction.

Questions?

For questions regarding failed mandatory testing procedures or the new forms, email cannabiscompliance@health.mo.gov. Our team is here to help ensure licensees understand the requirements and stay in compliance.

The new forms are designed to make the notification process more straightforward while ensuring all necessary information is captured. Using the appropriate form for the situation, will help ensure faster processing and maintain compliance.

Licensee Contact Dashboard

Author: Katie Maples
Senior Research/Data Analyst
Program Development Unit

DCR is announcing the launch of the new Licensee Contact List Dashboard on the Licensed Facilities page of the DCR website.

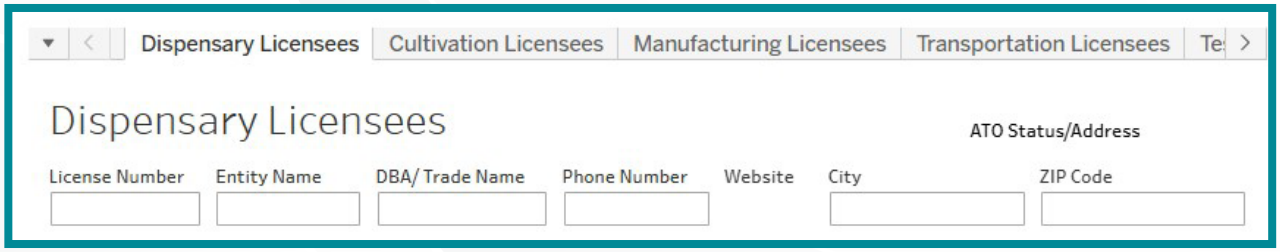
Visit Cannabis.Mo.Gov to check a facility's operational approval status via this new resource. The user-friendly dashboard is conveniently located just below the Missouri Dispensary Licensee Location Directory.

The dynamic table provides essential information about licensees, including license numbers, entity names, DBA/trade names, websites and whether the licensee has been approved to operate. Additionally, addresses for dispensary licensees are provided.

The interactive features allow users to filter the dashboard by desired criteria and navigate directly to each licensee's webpage with just a click. Say goodbye to those old Excel files; this upgraded dashboard is informative and engaging.

Remember, it's important for licensees to keep information up-to-date with DCR. The dashboard will be refreshed monthly to ensure the most accurate information is available.

For questions or verification about the new dashboard, email CannabisDevelopment@health.mo.gov.



Why a Change in Compliance Officers?

Author: Don Kinkhorst

Regulatory Compliance Manager
Bureau of Facility Compliance

Rotating compliance officers offers several benefits. It brings fresh perspectives, enhanced objectivity, reduced complacency, reduced risk of bias, enhanced mental well-being, improved morale, gains in individual skillsets, identification of inefficiencies or vulnerabilities and building of organizational resilience by distributing knowledge and experience. This is a proactive approach to regulatory compliance enhancing the situation for both the licensee and the compliance officer.

Assigning a new compliance officer to a licensee on a regular basis brings a different lens to the role, potentially spotting regulatory deficiencies or inefficiencies that might have been overlooked by a long-term compliance officer. This leads to continuous improvement in DCR and licensee regulatory compliance ensuring a comprehensive approach to regulatory oversight.

Rotating compliance officer assignments also works to prevent compliance officers and licensees from becoming too comfortable, which lends to the increased likelihood of complacency that often develops with long-term relationships. With all parties understanding the relationship has a defined term, it can also reduce the stress and pressure associated with aspects of managing unique situations or people. This works to foster more constructive, professional relationships and improved morale for better interdepartmental and licensee relations.

As different compliance officers experience the uniqueness of each licensee, their regulatory knowledge becomes stronger. This also leads to development of greater empathy and cooperation amongst compliance officers enhancing the internal culture.

Another product is that redundancy in knowledge is built ensuring continuity in case of unexpected departures or changes in personnel.

Serving as a regulatory compliance officer is a demanding experience where skills are developed in risk management, regulatory frameworks and firm governance. Rotation of compliance officers also provides a platform for aspiring leaders to gain strategic and operational insights.

In summary, regular rotation of compliance officers will strengthen DCR's culture, improve overall operations and contribute to the professional development of employees as well as improvement in regulatory compliance of licensees.

Licensees are always encouraged to reach out to cannabiscompliance@health.mo.gov with any questions. Please provide a summary of what is being requested along with the license number, or numbers, and the compliance officer will be in contact.

Meet our team
We are DCR

Sabrina Best
Regulatory Auditor Supervisor
Section for Patient and Application Services

I jumped at the opportunity in June 2019 to join DCR just as it was getting off the ground as the Missouri Medical Marijuana Program, and I've been here ever since. It's been a wild, rewarding ride from helping develop the patient services team from scratch to stepping into my current role as supervisor of the Individual Licensing Unit just as the law changed. Watching our division grow into the dynamic force it is today has been nothing short of incredible. It's truly rewarding to know I've played a part in helping Missourians gain safe access to cannabis and to be part of history in the making.

I earned my Bachelor of Arts from Columbia College, and right after graduation, I jumped into public service with the Department of Social Services, working in the Child Support Enforcement Unit. Before that, I wore many hats in the private sector, everything from a bill collector to a loan officer to a bankruptcy manager for one of the largest banks in mid-Missouri. Every role helped shape me by adding new tools to my professional toolbox and preparing me for the journey ahead.

Outside of work, life is full and loud, thanks to my big and beautifully blended family that keeps life fun and lively. My husband and I have seven amazing kids ages 19, 14, 12, 12 (no, not twins!), 7, 2 and 8 months. They are my heart, my motivation and the reason I run on Red Bull, love and very little sleep. My husband is a die-hard Philadelphia Eagles fan, and his enthusiasm and love for the team is so contagious that now I love them too.

So, whether I am navigating a large workload or referring to the emotional roller coaster that is teenage girl drama, I show up, get it done and keep my sense of humor intact. The chaos isn't going anywhere, but with the right mindset, a solid team and just enough caffeine, I won't just survive it, I will lead through it.

And, if I am going to do all that anyway, I might as well do it like a BEST!

Meet our team
We are DCR

Breanna Werdehausen,
Regulatory Auditor Supervisor, Bureau of Business License Service

My career with the state started over 18 years ago with most of my service at the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). I first started with the Division of Regulation and Licensure in the Intermediate Care Facilities Unit and then moved to the Division of Administration in Budget Services and Analysis where I worked on the DHSS budget book and fiscal notes. I moved into the Division of Community and Public Health and since 2013, I have worked in various Environmental Health Regulation programs. Prior to joining DCR, I served as the Onsite Wastewater Program coordinator where I provided training, procedure/program improvements and technical assistance to stakeholders throughout Missouri regarding the applicable laws and regulations. Even with a small team, we were able to successfully train over 1,000 participants with 99% continuously positive feedback.

I was more than excited to bring my regulatory experience to DCR. I joined the Business Licensing Services (BLS) as a team supervisor in September 2024. In my role I supervise five regulatory auditors who serve as BLS specialists. Each specialist has their own caseload of approximately 35-40 licensees to assist and monitor. Ultimately, our goal in DCR is to ensure safe and secure access to cannabis for qualifying patients and adult consumers of age. This is achieved through consistent regulation, enforcement and education.

I enjoy that DCR is still a “new and evolving” program. Unlike many other regulatory programs throughout the state, DCR is unique in that we continuously encounter new situations daily which keeps our thought processes fresh and innovative. Without all of the components and individuals working together in DCR, we would not be able to achieve this common goal and provide this service to the citizens of Missouri.

Michelle Stanley,
Regulatory Auditor Supervisor, Bureau of Business License Service

I joined DHSS as part of the Patient Services Unit in May 2019, when the program was just getting started and we were still known as the Section for Medical Marijuana Regulation. I made the move over to the Licensing Unit a few months later, in time to assist with getting the 2019 business license applications through to licensure. When adult use passed and the entire program tripled in size to become DCR, I accepted a position as team supervisor in BLS. Since then, I’ve had the opportunity to help grow the team and I have the daily privilege of working with the incredible group of people that make up the BLS unit while we fine-tune our processes and work through the often challenging but never dull world of cannabis regulation.

In my time with DHSS, I’ve been fortunate to be involved in developing different parts of the marijuana program. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed getting to work with people all over DCR and seeing how the variety of backgrounds, skills and experiences mix to keep the program moving forward.

Medical Marijuana ID Card Renewals

Authors: Sabrina Best and Amber Sims
Regulatory Auditor Supervisors
Section for Patient and Application Services

Medical marijuana ID cards approved on or after December 2, 2022, are soon approaching the three-year renewal period. The following information is for patients, caregivers or healthcare providers. Additional detailed instructions on submitting renewal applications can be found on the DCR website at Cannabis.Mo.Gov.

Renewal applications must be submitted through the online registry portal. Getting started early and having the required documentation are both key to ensuring the renewal is processed quickly.

Confirm account access.

- Username (email) and password for the online registry portal.
- Verify and update details.
- Full legal name, date of birth, social security number, email, phone number, residential and mailing addresses will autofill. Make sure information is correct and current.

Get documents ready.

- Clear, recent color photo: a digital facial photo taken within the last three months. This cannot be a scan or copy of a driver's license or passport.
- Photo identification: a legible government-issued photo ID (state or federal).

Pro Tip: Ensure auto-filled information is still accurate and recent photo meets guidelines. Be sure to include all updated personal information and new or revised documents as indicated in the renewal checklist.

Application attestations, signature and fees.

- Acknowledge attestations, sign and date and include all required fees to complete the renewal submission.

See page 11 for additional details.

Micro Message

Shout Out!

The DCR microbusiness program now has **EIGHT** wholesale and **TWO** dispensaries that have been approved to operate. Congratulations to those involved for their hard work and dedication to the program.

Chief Equity Officer Lesley Turek recently made several site visits to microbusiness facilities that recently received approved to operate status.

(Top left photo) Congratulations to Jesse Greco from MBW024 South of Bones, LLC.

(Top right photo) DCR is proud to announce the first operational micro dispensary, 816 Dispensary, in the state operated by Jimi Poe and his team from MBW008 KC Prime Group, LLC.

(Bottom photo) Jim Mondl of MBW050 LL Wirtz, LLC is shown at right tending to some of the plants at his wholesale facility.

Understanding Patient Rights and Allotment

What Every Patient Should Know

Authors: Sabrina Best and Amber Sims
Regulatory Auditor Supervisors
Section for Patient and Application Services

As a Missouri medical marijuana patient, it is important to understand both the rights and responsibilities as a participant. Recent changes in Sections 1 and 2 of Article XIV of the Missouri Constitution reinforce patient and consumer protections, some of which fall outside the authority of DHSS and are instead governed by courts and other regulatory agencies.

Many patients have been inquiring about how allotment works, how to stay compliant and where to check the available purchase amount. DCR is sharing the following information to help answer questions.

How Patient Allotment Works

Patients may purchase up to six ounces of medical marijuana within a 30-day period. If a physician or nurse practitioner determines that a patient has a specific medical need, certification for an increased allotment amount is possible. It is important that this is clearly noted on the physician certification form and in the patient's application. The updated certification form and patient application may be submitted at any time to request an increase in patient allotment.

Different products will use varying amounts of the allotment, depending on how much THC is present in the product. For allotment purpose, marijuana flower is based on weight in grams. Infused products, such as edibles, tinctures and infused pre-rolls, is measured in milligrams. Similar to flower, concentrates are measured in grams.

For example, 3.5g of flower uses the same allotment amount as 1g of concentrate or 100mg of THC-infused product.

Understanding the 30-Day Purchase Window

The 30-day rolling allotment is calculated daily, not by month. When making a purchase, the dispensary will check how much is available to the patient based on what has already been purchased in the past 30 days. If the full allotment has not been reached, the patient may purchase up to the remaining amount. Any product purchased more than 30 days ago does not count against the allotment limit, and that amount is automatically added back to the patient's available purchase amount.

> **Pro tip:** Always track your purchases and save receipts. This practice will help the patient stay within the allotment and avoid surprises at checkout.

Where to Check Current Allotment

The real-time available allotment can be checked through the online registry portal. Log in to the patient account and from the License Dashboard then click on the Patient ID card number (PAT#). On the next screen the available allotment will appear at the top of the screen next to the ID card details.
There will be two allotment numbers present on the screen. The top number represents the amount available for the patient to purchase in flower and the second number represents the available allotment amount in infused products and concentrates. These are not two separate amounts. The numbers represent the same total amount of allotment available.
If the numbers seem outdated, patients should use the refresh button to update the data. Remember, all purchases are automatically deducted from the total. Any previous purchases are re-added to the available allotment exactly 31 days after the original transaction date.

Understanding Patient Rights and Allotment, continued

Responsibility Reminder

While dispensaries will verify the allotment when a purchase is made, remember that it is ultimately the patient's responsibility to stay within the allowed limit. If the allotment is higher than the standard six ounces because of medical necessity, please ensure the certification reflects that and has been properly processed by DCR.

Understand Your Rights

Section 1 of Article XIV lays out patient protections to ensure that patients who actively participate in the legal medical marijuana program are protected from certain undue burdens, sanctions or penalties. Some patient protections under Article XIV are beyond DCR's authority and may be interpreted or enforced by other government agencies or courts. These protections are part of the law to ensure patients are treated fairly and respectfully within the program.
Contact the DCR call center at 866-219-0165, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., email CannabisInfo@health.mo.gov or visit the DCR website at Cannabis.Mo.Gov for assistance with certification or checking allotment. Staff members are available to patients to assist with staying informed, compliant and in control of medical marijuana care.

ID Card Renewals *continued*

Patients	Caregivers
Physican Certification Form • Obtain a new certification form (signed no more than 30 days before submitting renewal) by a Missouri-licensed physician or nurse practitioner (APRN) who is in good standing with the state of Missouri. • Provider submits form through online registry portal and form must be selected within renewal application. • **Pro Tip:** Make appointment for certification form early because getting in may take time. **Non-emancipated minor** • A new parental/legal guardian consent form is required in additional to the list above.	**Patient Authorization Form** • New authorization form must be submitted for caregiver renewal. • Patient's ID card must be active at time of caregiver renewal. • All other requirements apply including updated account information, recent digital photo, photo ID, authorization form, attestations and required fees.

Additional Requirements

Cultivation Authorization
- If renewing with intent to continue or begin patient cultivation, provide updated information on cultivation location, security measures and access.

Physicians and Nurse Practitioners

Physician Certification Form
- Must be signed no earlier than 30 days prior to renewal application submission.

Submission Portal
- Submit completed form through online registry portal using Physician Registration account. Patients will select form within renewal application.
- Date of birth and social security number must be accurate to link to the correct patient account.

Facility Tours

Thank you to these licensees and others who open their facilities for tours. We appreciate your hospitality. It provides people who typically do not have access to the facilities with an opportunity to learn more about the cannabis industry. If you are interested in hosting a tour, contact Tara McKinney at Tara.McKinney@health.mo.gov.

LASA Team

DCR introduces the lead administrative support assistant team, fondly referred to as LASAs. DCR is fortunate to have seven positions that assist directors and staff with the daily tasks that keep operations running smoothly. Their responsibilities, including scheduling, travel arrangements, meeting planning, office management, organization and purchasing are vital to DCR's success. All DCR leadership and staff extend heartfelt gratitude for their unwavering support!

Welcome

First up, we'd like to welcome DCR's new executive assistant Kimberly Hill. She started on Nov. 17 and supports the Division Director Office!

Our division is supported by the strong team below. From left to right:

Carla Buschjost — Section for Compliance and Enforcement

Hailie Smith — Office of Operational Support

Ashley Davis — Bureau of Facility Compliance

Ami Wilson — Section for Patient and Application Services

Jordan Lennox — Bureau of Investigations and Enforcement

Klarissa Deornellis — Bureau of Business License Services

"Having administrative assistants means the shelves are stocked with supplies, hotels are booked, food is purchased for meetings and vehicles are managed."
– Don Kinkhorst

"Our administrative staff are all incredible. From managing complex calendars and coordinating meetings to tackling unexpected challenges with grace, their contributions are felt by everyone. The work they do behind the scenes keeps DCR on track!"
– Bonnie Hood

"The LASAs are the true glue that helps us function, plan and process things necessary to sustain. They keep us moving forward!"
– Caleb Forrest-Dietzel

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DCR COMMUNICATION RESOURCES

Stay informed

Communication & Resource Center
One-stop shop

The Cannabis Connection
Quarterly e-newsletter

DCR Podcast
Monthly podcast

Email Subscription
E-mail alerts

Cannabis.Mo.Gov

Check out our monthly podcast to hear about what's happening around DCR! If you have a topic that you would like us to feature reach out to Tara McKinney at Tara.McKinney@health.mo.gov.

For more information, visit us at Cannabis.Mo.Gov

Find our team's organizational chart at Cannabis.Mo.Gov.